

Study Tips

Tips and ideas to help you better understand what you read.

Before reading

Think about and write down what you already know about the topic.

Read all the headings, sub-headings, and bold words throughout the chapter.

Look at the pictures, graphs, picture captions, and insets throughout the chapter.

Think of questions you would like answered while you read.

While reading

Take notes, copy down headings, and list at least one detail about each main concept or idea.

Try to guess what unknown words mean by how they are used. Then check the glossary or dictionary to confirm the meaning.

Look at all visual graphics in the chapter to help you better comprehend the main ideas.

See if the questions you had are being answered. Then ask yourself new questions as you continue reading.

If it helps you to understand, try to make pictures in your head to visualize the information.

Draw your own visual graphic to sort and organize information. For example, if the chapter is dividing information into three separate categories, create a table with three columns listing the textbook examples. Then add some of your own examples as well.

Highlight areas in your notes that are confusing. Be sure to ask your teacher to help you understand these points.

After reading

Think about some of the key points and details.

Compare the material that you read to the notes and the class discussions. If there are differences, talk to your teacher.

Write down ideas, opinions, and a list of questions. These may be helpful for your next class discussion, test, or assignment.



VSB

“Study Tips”

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**Helpful ideas
on how to be a
more
successful
student**

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Studying in BC may be different than what you're used to.

Memorizing facts is only one part of becoming a successful student.

Much value is placed on students showing that they can think independently.

Questioning ideas during discussion is one way students can show their independent thinking.

Class discussions are an important part of the learning experience and also a way teachers can see that students are progressing.

Using class time wisely

Be sure you are in class on time, well rested, and ready to learn.

Ask the teacher to write notes on the board so you can see, as well as hear, the information.

Take notes and review them regularly to study for exams.

*Ask questions when you are not sure you understand. This will help **all** the students.*

Listen carefully - while many teachers do not tell you exactly what to study, they usually spend more time on key points and ideas.



Successful students have good daily work habits. They:

- take responsibility for their own learning.
- use an agenda to write down assignment due dates, test dates, and to set study goals.
- find out why something they did was incorrect, so they do not repeat the error.
- know their strengths and weaknesses and work to improve in all areas.
- talk with their teacher before an assignment is due if they are concerned about finishing it on time.
- ask for help when they do not understand assigned readings or work.
- get a copy of the class notes from a friend, and handouts from the teacher, if they were absent from a class.
- regularly review the textbook, class work, and assignments throughout the term.



Do's and Don'ts when preparing for tests and exams.

Do be realistic about how much time you need to study.

Don't try to stay up to learn all the material in one night. Studies show lack of sleep makes everything more difficult to remember.

Do study in a quiet place so you can concentrate.

Don't panic or start to get preoccupied and worried. This will take your focus away from your studies.

Do choose to study with friends who are serious about being successful. Take turns asking each other questions about the material.

Don't just read the material once and think that you are prepared. It often takes several readings to understand and remember the main ideas.